



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

25 JANUARY 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Beaumont – FAA Employee Charged with Taking Part in US Capitol Riot

(U) A Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) employee and QAnon follower from California who had been on the FBI's radar is facing federal charges after he confessed to taking part in the siege of the US Capitol, according to court documents released Friday. Kevin Strong, 44, of Beaumont, surrendered to authorities on Friday and appeared in a federal court in Riverside, where a judge ordered him held on \$50,000 bond. Strong faces three charges: violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds, entering or remaining in a restricted area, and being disorderly or disruptive in a restricted area.

SOURCE: 24 January 2021, [Mercury News](#)

(U) El Monte – Church Damaged By Homemade Bomb

(U) The FBI and local authorities are investigating the explosion of a homemade bomb at an El Monte church that had drawn protests due to its anti-LGBTQ teachings. The attack took place early Saturday at First Works Baptist Church. No injuries were reported but the building was damaged. The church's pastor, Bruce Mejia, filed a police report about two weeks ago after receiving an arson threat on social media.

SOURCE: 23 January 2021, [Los Angeles Times](#)

(U) Los Angeles – 33 Missing Children Found In Anti-Human Trafficking Operation

(U) Thirty-three missing children were recovered this month in an anti-human trafficking operation led by FBI's Los Angeles field office, the bureau said in a statement Friday. Of the 33 children recovered during "Operation Lost Angels," eight were being sexually exploited at the time of their recovery. One suspected human trafficker faces state charges as a result of the operation and several other investigations were opened, the FBI said. The operation involved the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and more than two dozen other law enforcement agencies along with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the California Department of Child and Family Services, and victim advocacy organizations, according to the FBI.

SOURCE: 24 January 2021, [Mercury News](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) California – Two Pedestrian Border Crossings Add Biometric Facial Technology

(U) San Ysidro – The San Ysidro and Otay Mesa pedestrian border crossings are among the latest ports of entry that recently added new biometric facial comparison technology to screen travelers, the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced this month. Once a traveler arrives at the primary inspection points at the pedestrian lanes or undergoes the I-94 permit processing, he or she will pause for a photo. An officer will retrieve the traveler's passport or visa photo from the government database and will compare it to the new one taken on-site; authorities explained. This process only takes a few seconds and is about 97 percent accurate, CBP said.

SOURCE: 21 January 2021, [San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Lawmakers Threatened Ahead of Impeachment Trial

(U) Washington DC – Federal law enforcement officials are examining a number of threats aimed at members of Congress as the second trial of former President Donald Trump nears, including ominous chatter about killing legislators or attacking them outside of the US Capitol, according to a US official who had been briefed on the matter. Similar to those intercepted by investigators ahead of Biden's inauguration, the threats that law enforcement agents are tracking vary in specificity and credibility, said the official. Mainly posted online and in chat groups, the messages have included plots to attack members of Congress during travel to and from the US Capitol complex during the trial.

SOURCE: 25 January 2021, [Associated Press](#)

(U) New Jersey – Authorities Charge Two Individuals in Capitol Riot

(U) Medford – Federal authorities on Friday charged a prominent right-wing activist from South Jersey and a Monmouth County correctional officer in connection with the 6 January US Capitol mob riot in Washington. Stephanie Hazelton, of Medford, who also identifies herself as Ayla Wolf, was seen on video directing members of a crowd of people barreling into police officers and pushing through the building's West Terrace entrance in an effort to breach the Capitol. She repeatedly said to others that "we need more men" and "we gotta keep going." On Friday, officials also charged Marissa A. Suarez, of Trenton, with knowingly entering or remaining in a restricted building without lawful authority. She was released on unsecured bond.

SOURCE: 22 January 2021, [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

(U) New York – Man Arrested for US Capitol Attack Tried to Flee to Switzerland

(U) White Plains – A Colorado geophysicist, Jeffrey Sabol, a 51-year-old born in Utica, New York, who is accused of dragging a police officer down steps to be beaten by a staff with an attached American flag outside the US Capitol on 6 January, was ordered held without bail Friday after a prosecutor said the man afterward tried to flee to Switzerland and commit suicide. Sabol was arrested Friday morning at the Westchester Medical Center.

SOURCE: 22 January 2021, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Texas – US Charges Man with Threatening to Assassinate US Democratic Representative

(U) Richardson – The US Justice Department revealed charges this week against a Texas man who allegedly stormed the US Capitol on 6 January and threatened on social media to kill Democratic Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Prosecutors asked a judge on Friday to keep the man, Garret Miller, in jail ahead of a court appearance, according to court records. They revealed five criminal charges in the US District Court of the District of Columbia against Miller on Wednesday, including for making death threats and trespassing offenses.

SOURCE: 23 January 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Netherlands – Dutch Police Arrest Alleged Asian Drug Syndicate Kingpin

(U) Amsterdam – Dutch police have arrested the alleged leader of a large Asian drug syndicate who is listed as one of the world's most-wanted fugitives and has been compared to Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman. Tse Chi Lop, a Chinese-born Canadian national, was detained on Friday at the request of Australian police, who led an investigation that found his organization dominates the \$70 billion-a-year Asia-Pacific drug trade.

SOURCE: 23 January 2021, [Reuters](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) Nigeria – Pirates Kidnap 15 Sailors in Attack on Turkish Container Ship

(U) Abuja – Pirates off Nigeria's coast kidnapped 15 sailors from a Turkish container ship in the Gulf of Guinea on Saturday in a brazen and violent attack that was farther from shore than usual. One sailor was killed in the raid, an Azerbaijani citizen, while those kidnapped are from Turkey, according to the respective governments and a crew list seen by the media. Accounts from crew, family members, and security sources described a sophisticated and well-orchestrated attack on Saturday in which armed pirates boarded the ship and breached its protective citadel, possibly with explosives.

SOURCE: 23 January 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) Turkey – Authorities Arrest 29 Suspects with Links to ISIS

(U) Istanbul – At least 29 people, most of them foreign nationals, were arrested in Turkey over their alleged links to the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS). Police teams in the Black Sea province of Samsun launched simultaneous operations at 13 addresses in Ilkadim, Canik and Carsamba districts. During the operation, four Syrian and 10 Iraqi nationals, who were active within the terror group, were detained. Digital materials were also seized from the suspects' addresses. Separately, prosecutors in the capital Ankara issued arrest warrants for 10 foreign nationals as part of a probe to uncover the terror group's members who distribute money to the relatives of ISIS members who are killed in clashes in Syria and Iraq.

SOURCE: 22 January 2021, [AA.com](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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